controller RNC. ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) may be used in L2 layer at the interface lub.

Thus, as recognized by the Office Action, the RLC/MAC protocols at the radio interface Uu support flow control, whereas the ATM protocol in the layer L2 at the interface lub does not. Accordingly, the radio interface Uu does not correspond to a first connection leg and interface lub does not correspond to an intermediate second connection leg as recited in the rejected claims.

The Office Action has correctly recognized that Chuah's connection between the mobile terminal 2 and node B6 (i.e., the radio interface Uu) corresponds with the claimed first connection leg, and that the connection between the node-P6 and the RNC (i.e. the interface lub) corresponds with the intermediate second connection leg.

However, the Office Action has incorrectly concluded that the connection leg between another user equipment 4 and another node-B6 corresponds with the claimed third connection leg. However, Chuah's leg is also a radio interface Uu in a totally different subnetwork 18. Thus, the connection leg between the user equipment 4 and node B6 has no relationship to the other two connections. As a result, the proposed interpretation of Chuah fails to anticipate the claimed third connection leg in combination with the two first mentioned connections.

The Office Action also asserted that Chuah's node B6, which is located between the radio interface and the link to the RNC, anticipates the first network element of the claimed mobile communications system between the first and second legs, and that the other node B6 which has the radio connection with the user equipment 4, establishes the second element of the mobile communication system between the second and third legs as claimed.

However, this other node B6 is not located between the second leg (which, according to the Office Action's interpretation, is between the first node B6 and the RNC10) and the alleged third connection leg (the second radio connection). The network element 10 to which the alleged second connection leg terminates is the RNC10. Thus, the third connection leg would be a connection on the other side of the RNC10, which is contrary to the Office Action's assertions.

Further, as admitted by the Office Action, Chuah fails to teach or suggest first and second network elements configured to tunnel lower level flow control information through the lower transmission protocol level and the second leg between the first and third legs in order to provide end-to-end flow control and thereby data integrity over the connection on the

lover transmission protocol layer. However, the Office Action asserted that those features are taught by Gerszberg at column 24, lines 11-16.

Nevertheless, Gerszberg merely discloses a network server platform for a hybrid coaxial/twisted pair local loop networks architecture. Those passages of Gerszberg referred to by the Office Action merely describe tunnelling methods for downloading data to the customer. Thus, Gerszberg merely teaches that the tunnelling or data download may be implemented using any suitable protocol, such as point-to-point protocol, or using layer 2 protocols, such as frame relay and ATM tunnelling to provide a point-to-point connection from a server to the customer premises. As a result, the user data, such as a child's game data may be transported in ATM cells over the whole connection.

Thus, Gerszberg fails to teach that an end-to-end connection which comprises a first connection leg, a second intermediate connection leg, and a third connection leg, wherein the first and second network elements at the ends of the second intermediate connection leg are configured to tunnel the lower transmission protocol level (e.g., layer 2) flow control information of the first and second connection leg through the lower transmission protocol level (e.g., ATM in the layer 2) of the intermediate second leg, in order to provide end-to-end flow control and thereby data integrity over the connection on the lower transmission protocol layer (e.g., layer 2).

Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that application of the teachings of Gerszberg in the system of Chuah, would have merely resulted in tunnelling of user data, such as game data, in ATM cells, which is a conventional ATM procedure. However, the combined teachings of Gerszberg and Chuah would not have resulted in layer 2 (L2) flow control information relating to the first and second connection legs being tunnelled through layer 2 (L2) transport protocol (e.g., ATM) of an intermediate second leg which does not support such L2 flow control.

Similarly, none of Edhom, Newton, and Williams remedy the above-identified deficiencies of Chuah analyzed in combination with Gerszberg. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-12, 14, 18, 19, 21 and 23-30 are allowable over the cited prior art analyzed individually or in combination.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, Applicants request issuance of a Notice of Allowance indicating the allowability of all pending claims. However, if anything is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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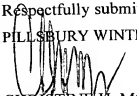

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